

The Times-Dispatch

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1903.

PARTY MEMBERSHIP AS A PREREQUISITE FOR THE VOTE.

Mr. Herman Ridder's proposal that no citizen be allowed the right to vote in an election who has not participated in the last primary of his party comes at rather an inauspicious moment. The unmistakable trend of party times is toward the loosening of party ties and growing freedom and independence in the use of the ballot. The effect of Mr. Ridder's suggestion would be to make party lines more rigid than they have ever been in our history. He would club every citizen into some regularly organized party with the threat of disfranchisement if he remained outside. It may be that the very laxity of present-day political alignment has prompted the suggestion, but it is certain that it falls upon a national mood set, on the whole, in the opposite direction.

There is, of course, another aspect of this somewhat startling proposal. It may be said that it is aimed less at making the party system powerful than at making the primary powerful. The primary, beyond question, has come to stay. The more men who legitimately participate in it, the more does it become a sure expression of popular choice. Its virtue, indeed, largely hinges upon the degree in which those who are entitled to use it do use it. Mr. Ridder's penalty of disfranchisement, assuming that it could be legally enforced, would certainly persuade many more men to participate in a primary election than are now likely to do so. But it would have two marked disadvantages. Beyond doubt, it would stimulate and increase the breaking of the party pledge. Men not unduly sensitive to moral obligations would enter the primary of their party, or of any party, merely to save their suffrages, and with no intention of abiding by the result. On the other hand, it would disfranchise all those independent voters who shrink from participating in a primary lest it may obligate them to support a candidate in the general election when their sound judgment does not approve, and so the country would lose all expression of opinion from those who are among the most intelligent and discriminating citizens that we have.

MR. BRYAN ON THE RECENT ELECTION.

Hon. James Bryan is a man whose good opinion in matters national and political is exceedingly well worth having. As a candid and observer of States, he has for years now been in this country, particularly, he is known as an expert governmental critic and diagnostician; for "The American Commonwealth" remains, after twenty years of vigorous life, the most illuminating exposition of our institutions that has yet been given us.

Therefore, it is a pleasure to find Mr. Bryan speaking, at the dinner of the New York Chamber of Commerce, in terms of warm praise of the manner and temper of the recent election: "Elections used to be in all countries the times when excitement produced uproar and violence. But during the autumn the burning issues of politics had been discussed with good feeling, good temper and perfect order. There were no complaints of interference with voting, either by force or by fraud. Meetings had not been disturbed. Every appeal had been to the intelligence and the judgment of the people. This was a thing of which the United States might be justly proud. It was a test of the excellence of free institutions."

Possibly the best thing about the ambassador's commendation is that it is deserved. The election was fair and the campaign was temperate. That apathy which was so largely complained of in midsummer did, it is true, suddenly disappear when Mr. Hearst's letters began to throw men into political Coventry; but even in those moving times only one or two men overstepped the limits of good temper and good order. For 12,000,000 or 13,000,000 men to conduct an election involving large interests in no admirable spirit is indeed a thing of which we may be justly proud.

THE END OF NIGHT RIDERISM IN KENTUCKY.

So far as the burley district of Kentucky is concerned, that is to say Eastern and Central Kentucky, articles of peace have been signed by the two contestants, and night riderism is a thing of the past. The Burley Tobacco Society and the American Tobacco Company have contrived to come to an understanding at last. Their agreement involves all of the 1904 crop and part of the 1907 crop, some \$5,000,000 pounds in all, and calls for the outlay of \$14,000,000 by the trust. The 1904 crop is not consumed in it, because there was no 1903 crop, except for

what little was raised by independent growers under armed guard. Both sides are reported satisfied by the transaction, and all burley growers will plant next year.

The lawlessness which has disgraced Kentucky during the past two years grew out of a violent effort to throttle the law of supply and demand. It should be added at once that the law had already been severely tampered with by the trust, whose influence in the smoking and chewing tobacco markets was such as to invent prices with a certain artificiality. This, at any rate, is what the planters contended, and they consequently organized, pooled their crop and declined to sell till quotations were more to their liking. But some of the planters declined to join in the compact, and thus the old conflict between union man and "scab" was immediately under way once more. High times followed. Men were dragged out of their homes by masked riders and whipped; others were killed; property to the value of hundreds of thousands of dollars was burned or otherwise destroyed; and at least one international difficulty threatened by the complaint of a foreign governor. All this went on for months, and the depredations remained seemingly immune from punishment. There were various conferences, and many flourishes of the militia, but few or no convictions.

If Kentucky could not be compelled under the methods of strike and boycott, which she so long tolerated, she may at least be felicitated upon the event which will for the most part terminate them. Her name has suffered considerably in the past two years. It will doubtless be some time before she is found wearing the reputation of an orderly community where laws are respected and capital, life and limb are safe. Meantime, however, commerce re-establishes, itself upon sane and unharmed lines, and men can go about their daily tasks free from the fear of arson or assassination.

THE LUDICROUS TARIFF ON SUGAR.

Free-thinking contemporaries find in the tariff hearings on the sugar schedules a light which throws its beams over many complexities of a much mooted topic. Sugar happened to come in for a little much-needed frankness, the reason appearing a stout conflict between the independent refiners and the trust. The result was a process which the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot aptly describes as "letting out the cat."

Thanks to this disclosure, the country now knows that sugar refining can thrive here with no protection whatever. Independent refiners plainly state that they would rather give up all duties than have the trust reap the benefit of them, which is what happens now. Their object just now is to get their raw material—sugar cane—duty free. Beet sugar does not interest them so much, as the refineries which handle it are mostly in the consolidation. But the stiff tax on beet sugar helps the home growers very little, as they have to sell where they can, and are usually compelled to sell cheap. Therefore it appears that the tax aids neither the American independent nor the American farmer. It aids the merged interests only, and it is a form of assistance that costs the consumer some \$20,000,000 a year. Doubtless he could still be bulldozed into tolerating this toll, upon the ancient "infant industry" theory, were it not for the fact that it has been made so glaringly palpable that sugar can be profitably refined on a free trade basis. The trust itself, the Philadelphia Record points out, is on record to the same effect. When the combine of beet sugar factories was under way a few years ago, it says, "the circulars advertising shares for sale assured intending buyers that they need not be afraid of free trade, for the concern could make good profits without any duties."

Messrs. Dailzell and Payne have so far survived, we believe, the gross insult of being told bluntly that there was an industry in this country which could get along without duty. But will even their bigotry suffice to reassure to the trust a subsidy which is now everywhere understood to be both preposterous and peccolatory?

Another French cruiser has just been crashing in the rocks. This little incident strengthens our ancient conviction that being a member of the French navy in time of peace is the most dangerous profession yet devised by man.

So far from Mr. Roosevelt's breaking the solid South, the solid South may some day have the pleasure of demonstrating that the boot is on the other leg.

It turns out that Mr. Rockefeller's memory is not "immaculate," as the New York World called it the other day, but only marvellously convenient.

Future Republican candidates for president can hardly hope to prosper if they fail to attract the favorable interest of Brother Charles, the fifty spender of Pike Street.

The Surgeon-General of the Navy wants a "corps," declares the Baltimore American. This must be the biggest toothache on record.

Richard Croker has temporarily left England, England being the kind of thing which cannot conveniently be taken along.

Little more than a month now remains in which to do your shopping late.

Donaldo and Hayes may rerun the Marathon race, but it is always to be remembered that Pheidippides didn't.

Balkan war-scarers did not get their name from their tendency to balk, but they might as well have.

Borrowed Jingles

ON THE ARRIVAL OF NO. 7.

Wild more or less of tuncful grace,
 As fits a Celtic singer,
 I've strung the harp of our race,
 The stork, the blessed bringer,
 When first to my poor roof he came,
 How sweetly he sang to me,
 I called him every dancin' name,
 That I could lay my tongue to,
 But ah, that he should praise me,
 So pleased the simple creature,
 His visits here have come to be,
 A word about his song to me,
 I'm glad to see him now and then,
 But, glory be to heaven!
 I don't hear him any more,
 An' this is number seven!

MERELY JOKING.

"I want to get a mitten, please," said the little girl. "If it don't cost too much." "It isn't a matter of cost," said the mother. "It's a matter of taste. Papa always buys hats that are too expensive, and then he changes his mind and gets the difference."

THE FOX HALL.

"Papa, always let papa buy my hats," said the little girl. "If it don't cost too much." "It isn't a matter of cost," said the mother. "It's a matter of taste. Papa always buys hats that are too expensive, and then he changes his mind and gets the difference."

NOT PROPERLY TRAINED.

"Going to the football game?" "Not me." "Don't you understand the plays?" "No, I don't. I'm sorry to say my early education in pugilism was sadly neglected."

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS.

"Yes," said Mr. Dustin Stax. "I have succeeded in life, and by the hardest kind of work." "You don't look as if you had much personal experience with hard work," said the reporter. "Not a bit, I don't. I hired it done."

A BIT DAMP.

Hewitt—What do you think of that building lot I sold you?
 Jewett—I think that if you were an honest man, you would have advertised it as a swimming pool.

PICTURES OF THE CHAIR.

"Which of you think affords greater pleasure, pursuit or possession?" "I don't know," answered the man with a motor car. "Possession is a fine thing, but I have sometimes regretted that I do not have more fun out of my machine than I do."

REMARKS FROM THE SIDE-LINES.

The German crown prince has invented a new style of cuff links, but we shall decline to enroll him among the world's great inventors until he can produce a collar that will not roll under the dresser.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

Glass is made indecent by being exposed, in a red hot condition, to the rays of the sun. It is produced by the stentorian blue by the sun, and is made indecent by the rays of the sun, and is made indecent by the rays of the sun.

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The Courts of Europe

By La Marquise de Fontenay

New Archbishop of York. URBEN ALEXANDRA's new perpetual chaplain, that is to say the new perpetual chaplain of the new Archbishop of York and Primate of All England, is the forty-four-year-old bachelor son of one of the most eminent divines of the Presbyterian Church, who, as moderator of the Church of Scotland, was president of the Council of Reformers (Presbyterian Churches), has on several occasions visited the United States. Old Dr. Lang, who was chaplain of the University of Aberdeen, was a great favorite of Queen Victoria, and a frequent visitor at Balmoral, especially during the latter part of her reign. The new Archbishop of York, stands equally high in the good graces of King Edward and Queen Alexandra.

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STATE PRESS

Many Times in Consideration.

President Roosevelt appointed a commission to investigate the conditions of farm life. The commission is visiting various parts of the country, and is now in the conditions of farm life by hearings of city people. Of course, this is the best of all possible ways of getting the truth about the conditions of farm life. The commission is now in the conditions of farm life by hearings of city people. Of course, this is the best of all possible ways of getting the truth about the conditions of farm life.

Worthy of a Monument.

The sinking of the large independent ship, the Atlantic, was a tragedy. The ship was a large independent ship, and was a tragedy. The ship was a large independent ship, and was a tragedy. The ship was a large independent ship, and was a tragedy.

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